

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

ADDRESS REPLY TO
THE FORESTER
AND REFER TO

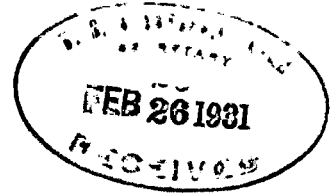


WASHINGTON

EM
Maps, R-4
Geographic Names
(Sawtooth-Lemhi.
Boulder Mts.)

February 24, 1931.

Secretary, National Geographic Board,
Library of Congress.



Dear Mr. Cameron:

The name "Boulder Mts." was briefly discussed at the conference on February 13 between Chairman Bond, Mr. Ross of the Geological Survey (who proposed this name with many others in his list submitted last fall), you, and myself. The point at issue is the extent of the mountains to be covered by the name. The intent of the definition proposed by Mr. Ross, as explained by him at that conference, is to have the name apply not only to the mountains which form the divide between the drainages of the Big Woody River and the East Fork of Salmon River, from Ryan Peak westward to what is commonly called the Galena Summit, but also to the divide between the drainages of Big Wood and Little Wood Rivers on the southwest and that of Big Lost River (chiefly East Fork and Antelope Creek) on the north-east. In advocating this, Mr. Ross said that local usage applied the name to two mountain groups, one the divide west from Ryan Peak to Galena Summit and the other constituting the southeastern end of the ridge which extends southeasterly from Ryan Peak; and that consequently his proposal was to eliminate a confusing duplication by applying the name to both mountain ridges and to the as yet unnamed ridge connecting the two.

The Forest Service may be counted on to support with enthusiasm the ordinary proposal to eliminate a confusing duplication of names. If local usage had not been so firmly established that no really satisfactory alternative was available, it would have objected to the duplication of "Round Valley" in the list of central Idaho names proposed by Mr. Ross. In the case of Boulder Mts., however, our local officers know of no duplication, and are inclined to doubt whether local usage is very widespread, at least, in using this name

Secy, N. G. B.

for any mountains southeast of Ryan Peak. Local usage is well established, however, for this name as designating the mountains forming the Big Woody-East Fork Salmon divide from Ryan Peak to Galena Summit, and for confining the name to those mountains. I understand that a mining district, centering in business around Galena, is involved, and therefore any attempt to extend the application of the name beyond the limits of present local usage would cause confusion, at least, and, in the opinion of our local officers, would not be successful.

I enclose a copy of a memorandum by Mr. Shank, of the staff of the Regional Forester at Ogden, on this matter. Also, the Regional Forester, after giving especial attention to this proposed definition, wrote as follows:

"The description of Boulder Mountains as given in the enclosures with your letter does not agree with generally accepted local usage. It should be described as the range of mountains extending in a general east-westerly direction from Ryans Peak to the point at which the Hailey-Stanley highway crosses the divide. The range extending southeasterly from Ryan Peak does not have any well established name in general use locally."

The Forest Service therefore recommends to the Board favorable action on the name "Boulder Mts.," proposed by Mr. Ross, but recommends the following definition as being in accord with local usage, as being desirable to prevent confusion, and as being advisable in view of the apparently very limited local usage for the same name for other mountains to the southeast:

Y
Boulder, mountains. Custer and Blaine Counties, Idaho, the crest forming part of the line between said counties and also forming the divide between the drainages of Big Woody River and the East Fork of Salmon River. Extending from Ryan Peak on the east to the point near Galena where the Hailey-Stanley road crosses the divide.

Very truly yours,


Acting Forester.

Enclosure.